

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-23 remain pending in this application, and have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1 and 8 are independent.

As an initial matter, an Information Disclosure Statement and a corresponding Form PTO-1449 were filed on March 14, 2001, as evidenced by the returned receipt postcard bearing the stamp of the Patent and Trademark Office, a copy of which is attached hereto. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449, indicating the references cited thereon were considered. Courtesy copies of the Information Disclosure Statement, corresponding Form PTO-1449, and the references cited thereon, are enclosed herewith for the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable material regarding Claims 1-23.

The drawings were objected to for the reasons given at paragraph 4 of the Office Action. As noted above, attached herewith are replacement sheets of drawings which include changes to Figs. 4 and 5. In particular, in Fig. 4, blocks 20, 22, and 24 have been labeled as "Delay Application Module", and blocks 21, 23, and 25 have been labeled as "Noise Estimation Module". Also, in Fig. 5, blocks 39, 40, and 43 have been labeled as "Delay Application Module", blocks 41, 42, and 44 have been labeled as "Noise Estimation Module", and blocks 47 and 48 have been labeled as "Module". Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

At paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the abstract of the disclosure was objected to because of the reference to Fig. 6. Applicants have amended the abstract accordingly, and withdrawal of the objection to the abstract is respectfully requested.

At paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the specification was objected to for failing to contain section headings. Applicant has amended the specification to include section headings, as required. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 7 of the Office Action states that the claims generally fail to conform with current U.S. practice, and the Examiner has requested that Applicants amend

the claims for the purposes of clarification. Further, Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, and 20 were objected to for the reasons given at paragraphs 8-18 of the Office Action.

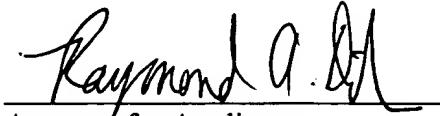
The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of current U.S. practice, with special attention to the points raised in paragraphs 7-18 of the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested. Applicants note, regarding the objection to Claims 15, 16, 18, and 20 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as set forth at paragraph 8 of the Office Action, that the Examiner appears not to have considered the Preliminary Amendment filed with this application, in which the claims were amended to place them in proper multiply-dependent form. A courtesy copy of that Preliminary Amendment, along with a copy of the returned receipt postcard bearing the stamp of the Patent and Trademark Office, are enclosed herewith for the convenience of the Examiner.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for lack of enabling disclosure. Cancellation of Claim 16 renders its rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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